

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES OF VISITS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE U.S.

REF: STATE 143177

1. SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF BEREZ'S REMARKS (REFTEL)
EMPHASIZING HUNGARIAN DESIRE FOR FIRST SECRETARY JANOS
KADAR TO VISIT UNITED STATES IN SECOND HALF OF 1979, I
BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO FORMULATE A CLEAR U.S. POSITION ON
QUESTION OF EXCHANGES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND HUNGARY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE WHICH WE
SHOULD HANDLE IN A MANNER BEFITTING RECENT POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY#

2. WE ASSUME THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF KADAR'S RELATIVELY
ENLIGHTENED DOMESTIC POLICIES, HIS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED
TIES WITH THE WEST AND THE U.S., AND HIS CONSTRUCTIVE
ATTITUDE ON CSCE, KADAR MAY HAVE "EARNED" AN INVITATION TO
THE UNITED STATES. NEVERTHELESS, FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL
REASONS SUCH A VISIT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE
BEFORE 1981. I BELIEVE THAT HE CAN BE BROUGHT TO UNDER-
STAND THIS IF WE EXPLAIN THE REASONS TO HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS,
SHOWING THEM THAT WE ARE TAKING STEPS WHICH, WHILE NOT
GUARANTEEING A FUTURE KADAR VISIT, WOULD MAKE IT EASIER

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IF, TOGETHER WITH GOH, WE EVENTUALLY CONCLUDE THAT SUCH A VISIT
WOULD BENEFIT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THE FIRST STEP IN PREPARING THE WAY COULD BE EITHER
AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA TO THE UNITED
STATES OR SECRETARY VANCE TO HUNGARY. THIS SEEMS
POSSIBLE IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE AND AS SOON AS

WE CAN WE SHOULD DISCUSS POTENTIAL TIME PERIODS ON SPECIFIC BASIS WITH GOH. A SECOND STEP WOULD BE MORE PROBLEMATIC: EITHER A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY PRIME MINISTER LAZAR OR A VISIT TO HUNGARY BY PRESIDENT CARTER, PRESUMABLY IN CONNECTION WITH A TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONSIDER A LAZAR OR PRESIDENT CARTER TRIP NOW IN SPECIFIC TERMS, IT MAY NOT BE PREMATURE TO LET THE HUNGARIANS KNOW INDIRECTLY AND WITHOUT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH VISITS.

4. ONE ADVANTAGE OF THE ABOVE APPROACH WOULD BE THAT FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS WORKING TOWARDS A POSSIBLE KADAR VISIT COULD SERVE AS A STIMULUS TO HUNGARIAN COOPERATIVE BEHAVIOR, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO CSCE, FAMILY REUNIFICATION, AND ON OTHER BILATERAL QUESTIONS.

5. THE ABOVE TIMETABLE, HOWEVER, COULD BE UPSET SHOULD KADAR DECIDE TO ANNOUNCE HIS RETIREMENT AT THE NEXT HSWP CONGRESS IN 1980. ONE WOULD EXPECT KNOWLEDGEABLE HUNGARIANS TO REALIZE THAT 1979 MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST YEAR FOR A KADAR VISIT FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW. THEIR DESIRE NEVERTHELESS TO BROACH THE 1979 DATE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE AN INDICATION OF KADAR'S INTENTIONS ABOUT RETIREMENT. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK IN BUDAPEST TO THAT EFFECT. IN OUR OPINION, HOWEVER, KADAR IS NOT

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LIKELY TO STEP DOWN COMPLETELY IN 1980, ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT RELINQUISH SOME OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPERATE MORE AS AN ELDER STATESMAN. WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET A CLUE ON WHAT IS IN STORE IF WE CAN BEGIN TO ENTER INTO A MORE SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH HUNGARY ON FUTURE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.

6. IT IS LIKELY THAT NAGY WILL RAISE THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AT END THIS MONTH AND WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM ALONG THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE.

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